

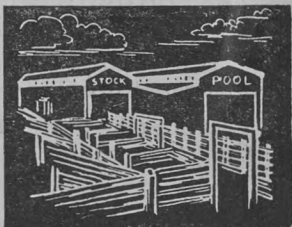
SASKATCHEWAN CO-OPERATIVE
PRODUCERS LIMITED ★ REGINA, SASK.

Highlights of the 27th Annual Meeting



Committee Program No. 2

"Better than grandeur, better than gold,
Than rank, and title a hundred fold,
Is a heart, that can feel for a neighbour's woe,
And share in his joy with a friendly glow,
All men, as brothers, is better than gold."



Highlights of the 27th Annual Meeting

The Twenty-seventh Annual Meeting of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool was held in Regina, November 6th to November 16th. The Wheat Pool delegates, representing all the shareholders, reviewed the business in all departments for the year ending July 31, 1951. The Balance Sheet was approved, and the figures tell a story of the benefits which farmers enjoy when working together. However, back of the Balance Sheet will be found the aims and objectives and the understanding and loyalty of the men and women who work for the success and progress of their own business.

Saskatchewan Co-operative Producers Limited The assets of the Company are owned and controlled by the shareholders on the basis of one member, one vote, and each shareholder's equity is built up through delivering his grain to his own Pool elevator, and livestock to the Livestock Pool. The elected delegates represent the shareholders at this Annual Meeting.

The assets include 1,168 country elevators together with annexes, bins, agents' cottages, etc., three terminal elevators, Head Office building, the Modern Press, Vegetable Oil Plant and Flour Mill, Stockyards, repair parts and supplies, investment and memberships, accounts receivable, together with a large number of miscellaneous items. The net value of these fixed assets as at July 31st, 1951, is shown on the books at \$23,349,576.56. Based on present day replacement costs, this book value is very low.

The direct investment of the shareholders in the organization consists of membership fees \$139,036.00; elevator deductions, \$12,188,060.07; commercial reserves \$6,567,851.17; a total of \$18,894,947.24.

The working capital is \$4,036,513.29 (see Statement No. 3 in the Annual Report).

During the year, 3,866 new members joined the Organization.

Elevator Deductions and Commercial Reserves

At July 31st, 1951, Elevator Deductions and Commercial Reserves totalling \$9,995,361.66 were purchased and approved for transfer from estates of deceased members, or from aged members who are no longer living, to member-patrons who have delivered grain to Pool Elevators. The sum of \$1,385,000.00 has been provided from this year's earnings for transferring deductions, bringing the total approved for transfer to \$11,380,361.66.

Paid to Member-Patrons, 1925-1951 From 1925 to 1951 the sum of \$33,013,954.87 has been paid out in cash or credits to the member-patrons since the Pool was organized (see Statement No. 5 in the Twenty-seventh Annual Report).

Country Organization Department This department includes Wheat Pool Committees, delegates, field men. Traveling superintendents and agents together with the personnel of the Livestock Pool work closely with Wheat Pool committees, delegates, and field men as one and all have a responsibility to further the interests of the Pool and the membership through co-operation.

During the year, District Representatives attended 2,670 meetings of all kinds, with an estimated attendance of 113,669. At 736 of these, motion pictures were shown. In addition, there were personal visits to 7,787 farmers, 5,062 business men, and 4,645 Pool Elevator agents. The field men also conducted 67 one-day co-operative schools, citizenship days, and rallies. Five one-week co-operative schools were held with a total attendance of 367 young people.

The Country Organization Department again worked with the University of Saskatchewan in organizing four regional agricultural short courses (six weeks) under the Union-Provincial Youth Training program. Plans are already under way to continue these courses during the coming winter.

The work of promoting the sale and use of Pool Co-op Flour has been carried on throughout the year, and in this work many Wheat

Pool Committees took an active part. Assistance has also been given to local committees in organizing and assembling co-operative livestock shipments.

The Country Organization Department has also assisted in organizing local co-operative associations, credit unions, and other community projects, and has worked with Agricultural Cultural Representatives in starting junior clubs.

The co-ordination agreement, under which the Country Organization Department conducts promotional and educational work for Canadian Co-operative Implements Limited and Saskatchewan Federated Co-operatives Limited, continued as in past years. An overall program of organization and educational work was carried on in co-operation with directors, delegates, committee men, and employees.

Wheat Pool Committees During the year, 1,057 Wheat Pool Committees reported re-organization, out of a total of 1,147 active Wheat Pool Committees in the province. The Committees continue to be the strength in Country Organization work. They are the important voice through which membership is informed on the progress of the Wheat Pool in all departments. During the year, the sum of \$22,350.00 remuneration was paid on application to committees who reported holding four or more meetings.

The annual program of 127 Committee Conventions was attended by 7,368 people, and the summary of the discussions and recommendations is given in Committee Program No. 5: "Highlights of the Committee Conventions, 1951." A copy of this was mailed to all members of Wheat Pool Committees in the province.

Saskatchewan Pool Elevators Limited and Saskatchewan Pool Terminals Limited Deliveries to Pool country elevators last season amounted to 145,772,861 bushels as compared with 123,008,626 bushels in the previous season. The average delivery per elevator amounted to 125,192 bushels. For the past season, 48.09% of all grain delivered in Saskatchewan was delivered through Pool elevators as compared to 51.43% in the

previous year. In order to meet the demand for increased storage space, nineteen country elevators and a terminal elevator were purchased from Line Companies. Five elevators were rebuilt; in addition, money was provided to build 100 annexes. When the annex building program is completed in December, the total country elevator storage capacity will be 66,266,000 bushels. Construction costs are up about 10% this year.

Providing additional storage space is not the complete answer to the farmers' delivery problem. The volume of grain which can be handled through an elevator often depends almost entirely on the distribution of cars at the point. In view of experience in recent years, as well as at the present time, it is plain to see that there is no generally satisfactory method other than the use of the Car Order Book, if growers are to have an opportunity of making maximum use of the elevators and terminals which they own.

Pool Terminals handled 76,950,407 bushels, which amounts to 24.36% of the total western grain unloading at the Lakehead. During the year, about 12,000,000 bushels had to be diverted to other terminals. Outward shipments from Pool Terminals were 71,454,166 bushels, of which 62,404,166 went out by Lake boat, and the balance by rail.

The sum of \$753,000.00 has been provided to pay for work under construction, machinery, and additional terminal facilities which will be charged to Capital Account.

Port of Churchill Pool Elevators shipped 4,335,726 bushels to Churchill, which was 52.85% of all grain shipped to this Port. The British Ministry of Food and the British Minister in charge of shipping have much to say about the boats to be made available at the Port, and generally speaking savings made on wheat purchased by the United Kingdom for shipment through Churchill belong to the British Government.

Carlot shipments from the prairies to Churchill are usually only from those points having the freight rate preference and on C.N.R. lines.

Surpluses for the Year

The Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st July, 1951, showed a surplus of \$4,350,701.35. This was allocated as follows:

- (1) Share of earnings transferred to Saskatchewan Co-operative Producers Limited.....\$ 154,246.04
- (2) Excess Charges Refund..... 3,808,710.00
- (3) Provision for Income Tax (estimated)..... 310,000.00
- (4) Transferred to Reserve Account..... 77,705.31

The patronage refund works out at 23 $\frac{1}{4}$ c per bushel on all grain delivered to Pool Elevators by Pool members during the year ending 31st July, 1951.

Flour Mill The Mill operated for 295 days and 9 hours, or 98.3% of the possible operating time, and 125,129 barrels of flour were sold in Canada and 241,323 1/3 were exported. Sales of Mill feeds amounted to 12,800 tons.

The capacity of the Mill is to be increased from 1,250 to about 2,000 barrels per day. The cost for additional machinery and installation will be about \$125,000.00. This investment will mean a considerable reduction in the average cost of milling a barrel of flour.

Vegetable Oil Plant The Vegetable Oil Plant operated 103 2/3 days on flax seed, and 32 days on soy beans. This plant supplies about 84% of the linseed oil taken by the Western Market. The amount of flax processed in 1950-1951 was 10,884,881 pounds, or 1,818,236 pounds more than in the previous year; 3,134,580 pounds of soy beans were processed.

Considerable difficulty was experienced during the year in finding an export market for linseed oil. Importing countries could not readily convert their currencies into Canadian dollars, and usually preference was given for the use of funds to purchase food and much needed raw materials.

Modern Press Limited The Western Producer has a circulation of 152,592, distributed as follows: Saskatchewan, 81,404; Alberta, 35,326; Manitoba, 23,039; British Columbia, 12,287; Miscellaneous, 1,536.

This paper continues to provide strength and support to farm programs, and to express opinions on policies and practices which affect the well being of the farmers in Western Canada. The Women's and the Youth Sections are very popular.

Delegates gave very careful consideration to the financial problem of the Modern Press and made recommendations for improvement. After paying interest to the Parent Company of \$36,658.18, and providing \$49,754.10 for depreciation on fixed assets, there was a net operating loss of \$158,309.68. This position would be greatly improved if the readers of the paper would send their renewal subscription direct to The Western Producer, Saskatoon.

Saskatchewan Co-operative Livestock Producers Limited Yards are owned and operated at North Battleford, Regina, Swift Current, and Yorkton, and agencies at Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, and Saskatoon. At

St. Boniface the Wheat Pool is part owner of Canadian Livestock Co-operative (Western) Limited. There has been a general decline in marketings at all of the above points with the exception of North Battleford and Prince Albert. The number of cattle and calves marketed co-operatively was 192,537, which is 45% of the total provincial marketings of 428,332 head. Hogs marketed co-operatively were 101,163 head, or 37.12% of the total provincial marketing of 272,502 head, and 16,206 sheep and lambs were sold through co-operative channels.

The auction method of selling livestock is optional, and is now in operation at all market centres. At the present time, this method is quite popular with the seller, and will remain so as long as the bidding is strong and the buyers are active on a market. Experienced co-operative livestock men are present on all markets where their knowledge of grades and values is available to the producers.

The gross value of all livestock handled co-operatively in 1950-1951 was \$33,821,189.45 as compared to the total of \$26,988,964.58 in the previous year. After making provision for depreciation and allowing \$18,500.00 for Dominion and Provincial Income Taxes, the

surplus of \$20,120.24 was transferred to Reserve Account.

Members' Opinions in Action Resolutions sent in during the year from committees or public meetings together with resolutions from Committee Conventions and District Delegates' meeting made available to the Resolutions Committee. This Committee is made up of one delegate from each district who was elected at the Annual District Meeting of Delegates last December. The resolutions (over 2,000) are examined by the Resolutions Committee, and in due course the resolutions they select are presented to the general meeting at the time the topic referred to is before the meeting. Any delegate, of course, has the right to offer an amendment or present a new resolution. In this manner, democratic policy is formed, guidance is given, and progress made.

Space will not permit a report on Canadian Pool Agencies Limited, which shows a net surplus of \$55,753.27. Pool Insurance Company had a net surplus of \$175,479.21. The report of Canadian Co-operative Producers Limited is included in the Twenty-seventh Annual Report, a copy of which will be mailed shortly to all members of Saskatchewan Co-operative Producers Limited.

The Twenty-Seventh Annual Report is one of the most important documents in Canada. In it will be found particulars on the Western Agricultural Conference, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the International Wheat Agreement, interviews with governments, etc.

In this day and age, most of the world's trade is carried on through governments dealing with governments, or through government agencies and boards, who issue import and export licenses so that finances can be arranged for much needed food and raw materials. In all transactions the interest and welfare of the grower must be considered and protected.

The ability of your organization to influence opinion at the national and international level is directly in proportion to the degree of support of the co-operative movement by individual members.